The Halyard
## A weekly newsletter for Virginia's Library Media Specialists

Charlie's chatter

Happy Thanksgiving! I hope that each of you will have an opportunity to spend time with friends and family as we enter this joyful season.   If you will be traveling, please be cautious and stay safe.

The VEMA conference was wonderful. It was a tribute to the many long hours of planning and preparation by Kathy Lehman and her committee members. A common complaint was that there were too many good sessions to choose from.

Our congratulations are extended to **Audrey Church** (Longwood University) who was selected as the Media Educator of the Year, to **Diane Capron** (Portsmouth) as the School Library Media Specialist of the Year, and to **Ann Tinsman** (Spotsylvania) for Meritorious Service to VEMA award. The Administrator of the Year Award went to **Dr. Donald Stowers** of Pulaski.

As one of the many who listened to Bob Berkowitz at the general session, I once again filled my sails with the fresh breezes and the affirmation that we, in Virginia, are on the right course. Early in the session he posed a series of questions: What do I want to happen? What do I need to make it happen and what evidence will I have that it really occurred?   Those are challenging questions that we need to face for ourselves as library media specialists serving today's students. Take time to write those questions on an index card and place them near your workspace and each day answer them and record your answers for later reflection of how your library is affecting teaching and learning.

SAVE THE TURKEY
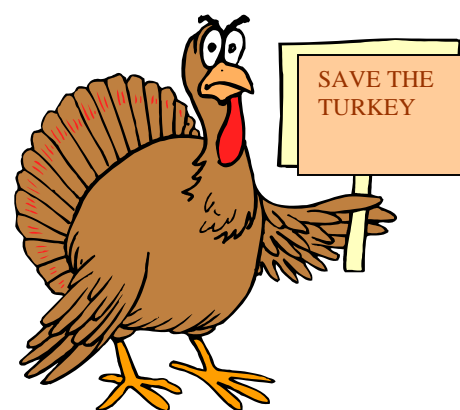
We can not control the wind but we can adjust the sails.

The project docked to overwhelmingly positive response from all. It was hoped that it would be docking on the DOE web pages as well, but it is awaiting the finishing touches from the harbormaster (sic Webmaster). As soon as it is posted, an announcement will be made via the listserv. Be sure to take time to read all of the accompanying documentation that will be on the web as well. Instructions for using the templates and other valuable information are contained in the introduction and the other supporting materials.

There are three major components to this project:

1. **Templates**-
   - Content SOL objectives from previously released tests were selected. Consideration was given to those SOL that lent themselves to the development of lessons and activities that could be done in the library. Not every SOL is addressed in this resource.
   - The national information literacy standards were from *Information Power.*
   - The essential skills for information literacy were drawn from the 1986 SOL for library and information skills.
   - Information retrieval skills are those skills students need to be successful in meeting the content SOL and the information literacy standard.
   - The strategies for the librarian were designed to make sure that students were taught the skills referenced in the information retrieval skills.
   - The activities in the elementary grades were designed for a 30-45 minute time frame. Upper grades have more complex activities.
   - Opportunities for adding local strategies and activities are provided.

2. **Tracker**
   - This is an Excel spreadsheet that provides a way of monitoring and documenting the SOL that are incorporated into library lessons and activities. Simply enter the names of the teachers in column A and then under each SOL indicate the date that a lesson was taught that supported that SOL. There are separate worksheets for each grade and or course area.

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- Instruction for both the national information literacy standards and the computer SOL can also be monitored.
- Due to the abilities of Excel, reports can be generated to demonstrate the opportunities that students have had that either introduce or reinforce instruction that is directly tied to the SOL.

OHIO Department of Education

Ohio DOE has just released their <u>Academic Content Standards for the Library.</u> Benchmarks for each grade were developed along with guidelines and a scope and sequencing guide. On page 172, the authors write,

"This document represents a standards-based education (SBE) approach to school library programs. While previous state documents focused on quantitative strategies for school library programs, such as, determining the intervals for replacing encyclopedias and other reference sources, this document offers a qualitative approach. *The new library guidelines reinforce the school librarian's role as a teacher-partner in the learning process and feature the school library as a dynamic agent of learning.*"

3. Cross Reference Document

- This is an Excel spreadsheet which can be sorted in numerous ways.
- To determine what SOL can be taught by grade level, a simple sort will provide a list of SOL by grade or course name.
- A simple sort of the table can also create information about what information literacy standards can be taught by grade and or by course.
- Information regarding the computer technology skills and the state educational technology plan can also be gathered using this table.